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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	- Margaret H. F. Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	- D. A. Pamphilon, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	- J. Stocker, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Westgate,  
Bridgnorth.  
November, 1959.

The the Chairman and Councillors.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report dealing with matters pertaining to health and environmental hygiene in the Rural District during 1958.

A few brief comments, summarising the main points from the various sections may be made at this stage, by way of introduction.

The health statistics for the year, as detailed in Section A, may be regarded as satisfactory, although our Infant Mortality Rate is again higher than the average for England and Wales, and our Still Birth Rate is almost twice as great as that for 1957. As has been pointed out previously however, too much significance should not be attached to such Rates in an area with a small population, as they are liable to wide fluctuations from year to year.

The District was remarkably free from the notifiable infectious diseases during 1958. Only 54 notifications were received - the lowest total for many years.

The Low Level Water Supply Scheme progressed well, and its completion was within sight by the end of the year. Mainlaying in Stage 3 was completed, Stages 4 and 5 were progressing satisfactorily, and work on Stage 6 had begun. Work on the Romsley Reservoir and on the proposed branch-mains was scheduled to start early in 1959.

Sewer-laying for the Eardington Sewerage Scheme was completed by December, 1958, and the disposal-works were expected to be ready for use early in 1959.

The need for adequate sewerage facilities at Stottesdon, Worfield and Alveley received consideration during the year.

A scheme for the sewerage of Stottesdon was prepared by the Consulting Engineers, and approved by the Council.

Conditions at Worfield were to be improved by enlargement of the existing disposal-works, and the provision of sewers in the older parts of the village.

Drainage nuisances in Alveley village continued to cause concern. Having failed to reach agreement with the owners of the land required for the new disposal-works the Council reluctantly decided to make application to the Ministry for a Compulsory Purchase Order.

A compulsory Purchase Order was also sought for land at Alveley for a new refuse tip, protracted negotiations with local land-owners having failed to produce a satisfactory settlement.

Efforts to find other sites in the District suitable for future tipping met with little success.

The Council's house-building programme progressed well. 36 houses were completed and 8 bungalow for old people were in course of construction at the end of the year. Further building, at Hilton and Worfield, was due to commence early in 1959.

Very little progress was made with slum-clearance, though slightly more than in 1957. Until the Council decides that a certain proportion of houses built each year should be earmarked for this purpose, then slum-clearance progress will be negligible. The suggestion is again made that the Council might consider purchasing and converting suitable dwellings to rehouse persons who, for various reasons, would not be suitable tenants of new property.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the great assistance given to me in the preparation of this Report by the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon (who collected and collated all the information contained in Sections C, D and E); and by the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. Stocker.

The continuing co-operation and help afforded to me throughout the year by the Inspectors, and by one Clerical Assistant, is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Margaret H. F. Turnbull,

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres	100,897
Estimated Population (Mid - 1958).	17,080
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,124
Rateable Value of the District (at 31.3.59)	£136,020
Estimated Product of ld. Rate (at 31.3.59)	£490

VITAL STATISTICS.POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the area at mid 1958 was 17,080 - an increase of 360 on the estimate for the previous year. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates for the year.

The natural increase in population i.e. the figure by which the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 100.

Estimation Mid-Year Population, 1950-1958.

Year	Population	Natural Increase in Population
1950	16,580	92
1951	16,590	83
1952	16,510	89
1953	16,540	104
1954	16,180	108
1955	16,100	108
1956	17,010	69
1957	16,720	107
1958	17,080	100

BIRTHS.LIVE BIRTHS 1958.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	104	3	107
Female	116	6	122
Total	220	9	229
Rate per 1000 of population	12.9	0.5	13.4

Crude Birth Rate per 1000 of population	- 13.4
Standardised Birth Rate per 1000 of population	- 16.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1958	- 16.4

There were 229 live births in the district during 1958, 3 more than in 1957. Of the 229, 9 were illegitimate.

The Birth-Rate for the year (standardised to allow for comparison with the corresponding rate for other areas) was 16.5 per 1000 of the population. This is virtually the same as the average for England and Wales for 1958, and the same as our own rate for 1957

LIVE BIRTHS 1950-1958.

Year	No. of live births	No. of illegitimate live births	Standardised Birth-Rate per 1000 of population
1950	210	10	14.2
1951	220	2	18.4
1952	227	*	19.0
1953	234	10	19.8
1954	229	6	17.6
1955	232	10	17.9
1956	206	4	15.0
1957	226	14	16.6
1958	229	9	16.5

\* Figure not available.

STILL BIRTHS.

Male		6
Female	-	2
Total		8

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total Births - 33.8

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Total births (England and Wales 1958) - 21.6

There were 8 still-births in this district during 1958, the highest number to be recorded since 1950. None of the 8 were illegitimate.

The still Birth-Rate for the year was therefore, 33.8 per 1000 total births (i.e. live births plus still-births).

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.6.

STILL BIRTHS 1950-1958.

Year	No. of live births.	No. of still births.	Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births.
1950	210	2	9.4
1951	220	3	13.0
1952	227	4	17.3
1953	234	4	16.7
1954	229	4	17.2
1955	232	4	16.9
1956	206	4	19.0
1957	226	4	17.4
1958	229	8	33.8

DEATHS

Male	-	73
Female	-	56
Total	-	129

Crude Death-Rate per 1000 of population - 7.6

Standardised Death-Rate per 1000 of population - 9.7

Death-Rate for England and Wales, 1958 - 11.7

The total number of deaths in the area in 1958 was 129 - 10 more than in the previous year.

The Crude Death-Rate was therefore 7.6 per 1000 of the population, and the standardised Rate, which allows comparison with

similarly standardised rates for other areas was 9.7. This is lower than the average Death-Rate for England and Wales for 1958, which was 11.7 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS, 1950-1958.

Year	No. of Deaths	Standardised Death-Rate per 1000 of the population
1950	118	8.5
1951	137	9.3
1952	138	9.7
1953	130	9.3
1954	121	8.9
1955	124	9.1
1956	137	10.4
1957	119	9.1
1958	129	9.7

The Registrar-General's annual return gives the causes of deaths in the area during 1958 as follows:-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1958.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory) .. .. .	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis (Other) .. .. .	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	-	-
8. Measles.. .. .	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	-	1
16. Diabetes .. .. .	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	8	12	20
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	12	4	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	-	4	4
20. Other heart disease .. .. .	13	12	25
21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	4	2	6
22. Influenza .. .. .	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	7	-	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	9	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	2	-	2
34. All other accidents .. .. .	2	1	3
35. Suicide.. .. .	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war .. ..	-	-	-
Totals .. .. .	<u>73</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>129</u>



## Deaths due to Malignant Disease and Circulatory Conditions

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total	% of total No. of deaths
Malignant Disease	7	9	16	12.4
Diseases of Heart Circulation	37	34	71	55.0

As in recent years affections involving the heart and circulatory system accounted for the greatest number of deaths i.e. 71 (37 males and 34 females) which is 55.0% of the total number. In 1957 there were 53 deaths from these causes (44.5% of the total for the year.)

Since 1952, the earliest year for which figures are readily available for this area, such conditions have been responsible for just over, or just under, half the deaths each year.

Malignant disease caused 16 deaths in 1958 - 12.4% of the total number. This is the lowest percentage since 1950 and is considerably lower than the 19.3% recorded for 1957. Only one death was due to cancer of the lung or bronchus in 1958 (4 in 1957).

Respiratory Tuberculosis caused only 1 death as compared with 3 in the previous year.

### Age - Distribution of Deaths, 1958.

Age at death in years	Male	Female	Total
Under 1	4	3	7
1 - 9	-	1	1
10 - 19	4	-	4
20 - 29	-	-	-
30 - 39	-	-	-
40 - 49	6	1	7
50 - 59	8	5	13
60 - 69	9	13	22
70 - 79	21	17	38
80 - 89	20	10	30
90 - 99	1	6	7
All Ages	73	56	129

### INFANT MORTALITY.

#### Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of Age, 1958.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	4	-	4
Female	3	-	3
Total	7	-	7

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births - 30.6  
 Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births  
     (England and Wales 1958) - 22.5

Seven infants in the area died during the first year of life in 1958 - one more than in 1957. Two of these succumbed during their first four weeks.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the district was thus 30.6 per 1000 live births which is higher than the corresponding Rate of 22.5 for the country in general.

INFANT MORTALITY 1950-1958.

(1) Year	(2) No. of Live Births	(3) No. of Infant Deaths		(4) Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births	(5) Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 live Births
		Under 1 year	Under 4 wks.		
1950	210	8	7	38.1	33.3
1951	220	3	*	13.6	*
1952	227	7	*	30.8	*
1953	234	6	4	25.5	17.1
1954	229	3	2	13.1	8.7
1955	232	4	2	17.2	8.6
1956	206	7	5	34.0	24.7
1957	226	6	6	26.5	26.5
1958	229	7	2	30.6	8.7

\* Figures not available.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were again no deaths related to pregnancy or child-birth in 1958, this being the fourth successive year with no maternal mortality. Since 1950, there have only been two maternal deaths, one in 1953, and one in 1954.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

No material changes in the provision of Health Services in this area took place during 1958. Much that appears in this section has therefore been recorded in previous Annual Reports.

The Public Health Officers of this Authority are listed at the commencement of the Report. There were no staff changes during the year.

The two Public Health Inspectors are full-time Officers, and the Medical Officer of Health devotes 2/11ths of her time to Bridgnorth R.D.C., 2/11ths to Wenlock Corporation, 1/11th to Bridgnorth Corporation, and 6/11th to Salop County Council.

### HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The provision of hospital accommodation and specialist services in this area is the responsibility of Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals most easily accessible to those living in the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring isolation and hospital treatment are admitted to the Borough-Hospital, Wolverhampton, or to Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Patients with Tuberculosis receive treatment at Shirlett Sanatorium, or Cross Houses Hospital, or at Sanatoria at Knightwick or Malvern.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are usually admitted to Shifnal Hospital, or to New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

### GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for the administration of these services in the area is Salop Executive Council.

### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Salop County Council as Local Health Authority is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services in the area:-

- Health Centres. (None in this area).
- Care of mothers and young children.
- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Ambulance Services.
- Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
- Domestic Help Service.

#### (a) Maternal and Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held in the Miners' Welfare Hall Annexe, Highley, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons in each month from 1. 30 - 4. 30 p.m. The popularity of this clinic was maintained throughout the year and attendances were very good.

Other such clinics accessible to those in some parts of the Rural District are held at Cleobury Mortimer, Much Wenlock and Bridgnorth.



(b) Welfare Foods.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod-Liver oil, and Vitamin A & D tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during Clinic hours, and at numerous conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

(c) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery.

One full-time Health Visitor serves a large part of the District adjacent to Bridgnorth and Health Visiting in other parts of the area is undertaken by the local District-Nurse-Midwives in addition to their other duties.

Two District-Nurse-Midwives are stationed in the Rural District one at Highley and one at Hilton. The rest of the District is served by Nurses based outside its area.

The Nurse at Ditton Priors retired in January, 1958 after 39 years in the service of the County Council, in the Burwarton area.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's Scheme, Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendation, immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping-cough and Tetanus is given separately at the Child Welfare Clinics and not by means of the "combined infectious" which have become popular in recent years.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

A very extensive programme of Poliomyelitis Vaccination was organised by the County Health Department during 1958.

The Ministry of Health had recommended in September 1957 that vaccination should be offered, before the summer of 1958, to all children up to the age of 15 years, and to expectant mothers. From February, 1958 onwards, special vaccination sessions were, therefore, held at all schools and Welfare Centres in the District. Routine School Medical Inspections were suspended to allow the vaccination programme to proceed.

In September, 1958, the Ministry recommended that the arrangements of Local Health Authorities should be extended to include those born in the years 1933 - 1942 and that third infections should be introduced.

To cater for the 15 - 25 year age-group evening sessions at clinics were therefore started at the latter end of the year.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

In 1958, Vaccination against Tuberculosis was again offered to all 13-year-old children at schools in the District who were found to require this protection.

B.C.G. Vaccine is used for this purpose. This is prepared from a special type of the Tubercle Bacillus which will confer immunity to the disease, but is incapable of producing it in the vaccinated subject.



(e) Ambulance Services.

The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made. Two ambulances and a car for sitting cases are stationed in Bridgnorth for use on local journeys.

(f) Domestic Help Service.

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age." Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Domestic Help Office, Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (Telephone No. Bridgnorth 3078) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2.15 and 4.30 p.m.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

##### Comprehensive Schemes.

###### 1. Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme.

The above scheme is one which is to be entered into jointly by the Ludlow and Bridgnorth Rural District Councils, and will draw water from the Cornbrook Culvert situated in Ludlow Rural District. This supply will be supplemented by water drawn from the Elan aqueduct when needed. The water will be treated and then distributed by gravity to 15 parishes in the West and North of the district.

###### 2. Low Level Water Supply Scheme.

Further progress was made on this scheme in the course of the year, and approximately 70 miles of main are now in use. Main-laying in Stage 3 was completed, and work on Stages 4 and 5 continued. Work was commenced on Stage 6, and continued at a satisfactory rate.

The elevated water-tower at Tasley was handed over by the engineers during the year and brought into use. Work was due to commence on the reservoir at Romsley early in 1959.

Work on the proposed branch-mains was also expected to begin early in 1959, and the completion of the Low Level Scheme is, therefore now within sight. The Council may feel justly proud of their efforts in providing such a large area of the district with water.

##### PARISH REPORTS.

Alveley - It is hoped that the position in the Tuckhill and Six Ashes areas will shortly be improved when the low level mains, already laid, are brought into use.

Astley Abbotts - Mention has been made in previous reports of the inadequate water supplies in this area. It is therefore pleasing to be able to report that there is some improvement in the position now that the low level mains have reached the area. Further improvements will result when the branch main for the Nordley area is provided.

Claverley, Worfield and Rudge - These parishes are within the statutory area of supply of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking and the main centres of population are well served.

A report from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer shows that regular bacteriological sampling of the supply has proved it to be satisfactory.

During the latter end of the year, the Public Health and Water Committee made preliminary investigations into the possibility of extending the mains in the Beobridge, Gatacre and Farmcote areas, in the parish of Claverley. These areas have long been in need of a mains supply, but one of the principle difficulties in the past has been the poor pressure available at the present limits of the Wolverhampton main. It is hoped that this can be overcome either by the provision of elevated water-towers or a boosted supply.

Premises Receiving Water from Public Piped Supplies  
at 31st December, 1958.

	<u>No of premises.</u>	
	<u>Direct supply.</u>	<u>Standpipe.</u>
Alveley	167	9
Astley Abbotts	36	-
Billingsley	18	-
Chelmarsh	57	-
Chetton	6	-
Claverley	246	-
Rudge	-	-
Deuxhill	4	-
Eardington	17	-
Glazeley	11	-
Highley	560	-
Kinlet	75	-
Morville	9	-
Romsley	1	-
Stottesdon	66	-
Tasley	52	-
Neen Savage	44	-
Worfield	Civilian	186
	R.A.F. Houses	180
	R.A.F. Camp	1
Total	<u>1,736</u>	<u>9</u>

PURITY OF SUPPLIES.  
(1) MAINS SUPPLIES.

The water supplied to the district from mains belonging to Birmingham, Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton Corproations is chlorinated before reaching the district, and the water feeding the Low Level Scheme from the Elan Aqueduct is again chlorinated as it enters the Council's mains for distribution. It may be assumed, therefore, that the mains supplies are bacteriologically pure, but regular sampling of the water is undertaken at different parts of the district to ensure that the chlorination is effective, and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution.

The samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory in Shrewsbury for bacteriological examination and the reports on the routine samples taken during 1958 are as follows.

	<u>Public Mains</u>	<u>Elan Aqueduct</u>	<u>New Mains</u>
Satisfactory	39	13	42
Unsatisfactory	14	9	23

These results are not so good on the whole as those obtained in previous years.

The reason for any particular sample being unsatisfactory is not always clear, but in all cases repeat samples proved satisfactory.

Washing-out and chlorination of the new mains taken over in the course of the year again gave the Surveyor's Department quite a time-consuming task. In several instances the complete process had to be carried out three times before the length of main concerned was proved to be sterile.

Although the contractors no doubt take all due precautions, dirt inevitably finds its way into the pipes and fittings before and during laying.



## (2) PUBLIC WELLS, SPRINGS ETC.

During the year only 12 samples were taken from private supplies but all proved bacteriologically unsatisfactory to a marked degree. When it is realised that perhaps over half the population of the district still relies on wells and springs for water, and that in many cases this water is impure, then the Council's heavy capital expenditure on water-supplies is amply justified.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

As the provision of piped water supplies proceeds throughout the district the problems of impure water are lessened but further problems arise. The most urgent of these is the disposal of sewage and domestic waste-water. In many cases, when water is laid on to an older property no attempt is made by the owners to provide adequate drainage or means of disposal of sewage, and nuisances arise in consequence. Many complaints of this nature were dealt with during the year.

As a general principle, sewerage and sewage disposal facilities should precede the provision of mains water in any area and not follow it.

## PARISH REPORTS.

Alveley - This village remains as the largest centre of population in the district without adequate facilities for sewage-disposal. Drainage nuisances are commonplace and the steady discharge of sink waste into ditches and fields gives rise to complaints from time to time. Even the provision of septic-tank drainage for various properties in this area has proved to be of little use owing to the heavy nature of the subsoil which renders adequate disposal of the effluent difficult.

As was reported last year, the Council's consulting engineers have submitted a scheme for the sewerage of the village and this has been approved by the Council. However, the difficulties which arose concerning the proposed site for the disposal-works had not been resolved by the end of the year, and the Council, therefore, reluctantly applied to the Minister for a Compulsory Purchase Order on the land required.

Claverley - The sewage-disposal scheme for this village is now in full operation, and the response from property-owners in making connections to the sewers has been most heartening.

A survey of the village to ensure that all properties are now connected to the sewers has not been made, but it is hoped that this can be carried out during 1959.

Eardington - Work was commenced on the sewage-disposal scheme for this village during the year, and sewer-laying was virtually completed by the end of December. The disposal-works were not completed but it was anticipated that the scheme would be in operation during the early part of 1959.

Stottesdon - No further progress can be reported with regard to the proposals for this village. The Consulting Engineers have submitted a scheme to the Council for approval. This would rely on a gravitation flow to a sewage-disposal works, thereby dispensing with the pumping-station and rising main for the eastern end of the village previously envisaged.

The cost of such a scheme will no doubt be high and would probably necessitate capital contributions being made by residents in the village. It must be emphasised, however, that a serious nuisance exists to the south of the village to which attention must be given in the near future.



Worfield -- During the course of the year the Council gave consideration to the need for providing a sewerage system for the older part of the village.

A survey of those properties not already connected to the existing sewage-disposal works was made, and it was found that crude sewage, in addition to sink-waste drainage, was being discharged directly to the River Worfe. This unsatisfactory state of affairs is to be dealt with by the enlargement of the existing works, and the provision of a sewer for the old village.

Highley - The greater proportion of this village is now sewered, but before any further house-building can be carried out by the Council, Stage 3 of the Highley Sewerage Scheme must be completed. This will allow the disposal-works at Vicarage Lane to be abandoned.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council continued, during the year, to collect refuse from all parishes by direct labour. A weekly collection is made in the more densely populated areas, and a fortnightly collection in the outlying parts.

Efforts to find sites in the District suitable for future tipping met with little success.

At Alveley the available space was fast filling up, and protracted negotiations with local landowners to procure another site to serve this parish were unsuccessful. Eventually the Council reluctantly made application to the Ministry for a Compulsory Purchase Order on the land considered most suitable.

In all, four refuse tips, (situated in Alveley, Claverley, Ditton Priors and Highley) are in use and receive regular attention by part-time tip attendants. In addition, the Council's Rodent Operator makes regular inspections, and treatments are carried out when necessary for rodent infestations. The tips are frequently treated with insecticides to keep down crickets, flies etc.

From casual observations made, it is clear that the position regarding the provision of proper refuse-bins by householders is not improving. Rather than provide a new bin, many people will improvise with any old container. Here is a problem which can apparently only be solved by the introduction of a dust-bin maintenance scheme, as was considered by the Council some time ago.

#### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The Council is responsible, by the provisions of Part I of the Factory Act, 1937, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories in the district, and in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

At the end of 1958, there were 23 factories on the register in all of which mechanical power was used.

A total of 15 inspections of factories was made during the year, when no defects were found.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which any persons are employed as outworkers are not injurious or dangerous to health. No persons were notified by their employers as outworkers during 1958.

During the year the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, Section 7 brought all slaughterhouses within the scope of the Factories Acts. A further 4 factories will, therefore, be added to the register in 1959.

## PEST CONTROL.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, requires a Local Authority to inspect all premises in their district, and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with either by the Authority, or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises.

The Council's rodent control service continued to operate satisfactorily during what proved, in many ways, to be a difficult year. The very wet summer left many fields of unharvested grain in the district, and this, together with the late harvest, resulted in ideal conditions for the rat population. Infestations of rats on farms doubled, but unfortunately the response of farmers to the Farm Contract Service did not increase to any material extent.

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1958.

A total of 2,778 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with the duties normally carried out by the Public Health Department. The total for 1957 was 2,265.

The pattern of the work remains the same with emphasis on meat inspection, housing work, caravan control, drainage and water supply. Caravan control is becoming of greater importance each year, and will be mentioned in greater detail later.

Details of the visits and inspections carried out during the year by the Public Health Inspectors are as follows:-

Houses - Public Health Act	59
Houses - Applications investigated	137
Houses - Housing Acts	273
Housing - Miscellaneous	237
Complaints investigated	87
Caravans	258
Camping sites	114
Water samples	102
Water - general	217
Factories	15
Licensed premises	37
Infectious disease cases	15
Swimming baths	7
Rodent control, farms and trade	104
Interview with owners	18
Revisits to properties under notice	79
Bakehouses	10
Catering	3
Food premises	87
Slaughterhouses	376
Butchers shops	46
Refuse tips	71
Ice cream samples	21
Drainage	185
Houses disinfected	4
Problem families	59
Miscellaneous	161
	<u>2,782</u>

## CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES.

At the end of the year there were 62 individually licensed caravans in the district as compared with 51 in 1957 and 30 in 1956. In addition there were 23 caravan sites, details of which are as follows:-

Under the Public Health Act, 1936.	No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans on Sites.	Spaces available on Sites.
Licensed.	17	285	66
Unlicensed.	2	18	-
In process of being licensed.	4	-	130
Totals	23	303	196

The popularity of the caravan, as a temporary or permanent home, is on the increase, there having been a further 8 sites licensed, or in the process of being licensed since 1957.

During the year, the Council considered the question of caravans in the district, and formulated a series of conditions to be observed when considering future proposals under the Planning Acts. These conditions would apply to certain areas of the district, including the area designated to be of outstanding natural beauty, and the Severn valley area. It was hoped that some conformity could thus be achieved when future applications were considered.

That control over existing sites should be continually exercised there is no doubt, for it seems that many caravan occupants are determined to become shack-dwellers, judging by the additions in the way of sheds etc. they make on the site. If caravan sites are not properly controlled they may rapidly deteriorate into rural slums, and may become a menace to the health not only of those who occupy them, but of others also.

It was suggested in the Annual Report for 1957 that caravan legislation is out-of-date and in need of revision. This view is apparently also held by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, who, in answer to a question in the House of Commons on 25th November 1958, announced that he was instigating an investigation into "the nature and extent of the problems which arise in connection with caravans used as residential accommodation, the underlying causes of these problems, and the views of those concerned."

In the light of the report on this investigation the Government will consider whether or not amending legislation is needed, and if so what form it should take. This report will be awaited with interest.



SECTION D.

HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses	4,124
Number of Council owned houses	448
Number of houses completed in 1958	
(a) Council	36
(b) Private	23
Number of applications for houses at 31.12.58	280
Number of houses under construction at 31.12.58	
(a) Council	8
(b) Private	32

The figure for Council owned houses includes the agricultural hostels at Stottesdon and Morville converted a few years ago into self-contained dwellings. The huts at Coton are no longer included, as these were cleared and the tenants rehoused during 1958.

The 8 houses at Neenton were completed during the year, together with 12 houses at Chelmarsh and 16 houses at Eardington. By 31st December, work had commenced on 6 bungalows at Claverley and 2 bungalows at Highley. It was anticipated that 8 houses and 4 bungalows at Hilton, and 4 bungalows at Worfield would be started early in 1959.

23 privately-built houses were completed, (as compared with 30 in 1957,) and a further 32 were in course of construction at 31st December, 1958. The total number of private dwellings built in the post-war years is 171, as compared with 392 built by the Council in the same period.

POST-WAR COUNCIL HOUSE-BUILDING.

Parish	Completed in year ending 31.12.58	Under Construction at 31.12.58	Total Completed Post-war
Alveley	-	-	50
Chelmarsh	12	-	12
Chetton	-	-	6
Claverley	-	6	26
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	16	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	-	2	120
Kinlet	-	-	14
Monkhopton	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	18*
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	8	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	15*
Tasley	-	-	6
Worfield	-	-	45
	<u>36</u>	<u>8</u>	392
Highley	Pre-War Houses		<u>56</u>
	Total of all Houses		<u>448</u>

(\* Includes hostels converted into flats).



## FUTURE HOUSING PROGRAMME.

At the end of the year 8 houses and bungalows were under construction, as shown overleaf, and a further 16 were due to be started early in 1959. In addition, it was likely that the building of some 40 houses at Alveley and 30 at Highley would be contemplated within the next two or three years. No doubt these figures will receive further consideration by the Council when the needs of the parishes concerned are further assessed.

It is pleasing to note that the Council are now providing old people's bungalows on sites at Claverley, Hilton, Worfield and Highley. It is believed that these will fulfil a long-felt need, and such bungalows will no doubt be a feature of all future Council housing sites.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND REPAIRS.

17 applications for improvement grants (relating to a total of 24 dwellings) were considered by the Council during the year. Of these, 15 applications (relating to 21 dwellings) were approved for grant.

In 1957, 23 applications, involving 47 dwellings, were approved for grant.

Dwellings which have been improved with the aid of grants are certainly a valuable asset to housing in the district. Only the fringe of the overall housing problem is being dealt with by this means, however, and it will be a long time before all families can enjoy the benefits of modern conveniences in their homes. Some hope in this direction is given by the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (which comes into force in June, 1959). Under this new Act, the owner of a house built prior to 1945 may obtain a grant from his Local Authority towards the provision of certain specified amenities, i.e. bath, wash-basin, hot-water-supply, water-closet and food storage facilities. Local Authorities will be obliged to make these Standard Grants, provided they are satisfied about certain conditions concerning the house.

## SLUM CLEARANCE.

Progress has again been slow, only 13 properties having been dealt with during the year. Two of these were huts at Coton Camp which is now cleared, 5 houses were made the subject of demolition orders, and the remaining 6 were closed for human habitation.

It is now known that there are some 106 houses considered to be unfit for human habitation in the area. From the records, however, it would appear that the figure should be somewhere in the region of 120, there being houses which have still not been surveyed in detail.

The phrase "slum clearance" is continually used, but it is suggested that the use of this term places an unnecessary stigma on the occupants of the premises. One dictionary definition of slum is a "squalid street" but not all such houses are squalid. Nevertheless they are unfit and the vast majority, besides being in a state of disrepair, have no drainage or water-supply. They are often damp, poorly lit, and inadequately ventilated, and in no way can they be considered a suitable environment in which to bring up a healthy family.

In considering the problem of providing accommodation for persons displaced by slum clearance, it must be borne in mind that not all persons living in unfit houses are entirely suitable for rehousing in new Council houses. This position should be clearly understood, and it is suggested again that the conversion and improvement of old dwellings might well be considered by the Council for this purpose, as was recommended in the Annual Report for 1957. Once such a family is rehoused, they may be visited regularly and encouraged to improve their standards of living. Such work is, of course, already undertaken by the Health Inspectors and Health Visitors, but progress in many cases is slow. A great deal of patience is needed by the Officer, who must show not only firmness and forbearance, but sincerity of purpose, before any rewarding results are achieved.

# SECTION E.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

At the beginning of the year there were 4 licensed slaughterhouses in the district. One of these changed ownership, and the premises were not subsequently used for slaughtering. The slaughterhouse at Eardington, however, was being used by the owner and three other butchers, two of whom have their businesses in the area of a neighbouring authority.

It has again been possible to attain 100% meat inspection, but this has only been achieved by the co-operation of the butchers concerned, as the majority of slaughtering is carried out in the evenings and on Sundays. Periodic visits are made at these times, but the actual inspection of the meat in most cases is carried out on the following day.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, both came on the statute book during the year, and Regulations relating to the prevention of cruelty, hygienic construction of slaughterhouses, and the staining of condemned meat were made. It is now clear from these Regulations, that a greatly improved standard is to be required in the slaughtering trade in future. That such an improvement has been long overdue is probably only realised by those Local Authority officers who have had occasion to work in slaughterhouses on meat inspection duties.

It is now up to Local Authorities to use these Regulations and to see that they are quickly and sensibly applied.

The table below gives details of all carcasses inspected and condemned at slaughterhouses in the district during 1958:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	265	6	16	1,254	415	Nil
Number inspected	265	6	16	1,254	415	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	1	7	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	.75	Nil	Nil	.15	1.92	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcass condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	16	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected	2.26	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.85	Nil



Cont.....	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised, and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption at the slaughterhouses during the year was 10 cwts. 3 qrts. 9lbs

#### METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned food stuffs are disposed of by deep-burying on the Council's refuse-tips. Condemned meat from the slaughterhouses is treated with a green dye and transported to the local Hunt Kennels where it is boiled for the hounds. In the event of a large quantity of meat being condemned, the butcher would be allowed to arrange for its disposal by an approved Knacker.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

It is an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for a retailer to have in his possession, food which is unfit for human consumption. Most retailers are aware of this, and bring the faulty goods to the notice of the wholesaler, who is generally only too pleased to exchange them. In other cases, the unwholesome food is brought to the notice of the Public Health Inspector, who accepts its voluntary surrender, and issued a surrender certificate as a receipt. The retailer can then claim compensation for his loss.

The following quantities of food stuffs were surrendered in this way during the year:-

Vegetables	18 tins
Fruit	7 "
Meat	16 "
Fish	1 "
Sweets	-
Milk	3 "
Jam	7 "
Rice Pudding	1 "
Spaghetti	18 "

#### FOOD HYGIENE.

Routine visits to food premises were continued during the year and the attention of occupiers drawn to any contraventions of the Regulations which were found to exist.

Many premises in the district do not comply with the Regulations in all respects, generally because of lack of adequate water supplies or drainage, but it is true to say that all occupiers of shops, cafés etc., now know what standard of hygiene is expected of them. The vast majority of food-handlers are most co-operative, and reliable but there are also those who, one suspects, are only on their "best behaviour" when the Inspector calls. The public themselves could help here, by informing the Local Authority if they notice unhygienic practices in any food establishment at any time.

## MILK.

The supervision of milk-production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Much of the milk supplied in this district is retailed by dairymen outside the area, and the Council issues Supplementary licences to these retailers, and Dealers' licences to those responsible for its distribution within the district.

The following licences were issued during 1958:-

	<u>Tuberculin-tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Supplementary licences	9	9	8
Dealers' licences	1	2	8

It is anticipated that during 1959 the County of Shropshire will become an area in which only designated milks may be sold, and no raw milk other than T.T. will be retailed.

Bacteriological examination of samples of milk, taken at random by the local Food and Drugs Authority (the County Council), revealed the presence of tubercle bacilli in the milk of one producer in this district, in the course of the year. Notice was immediately served on this producer requiring all milk intended for human consumption to be satisfactorily heat-treated before sale to the public. The notice remained in force until the source of the infection had been traced and eliminated and further sampling confirmed that the milk was safe.

## ICE CREAM.

By the end of the year there were 49 premises in the district registered for the sale of ice cream. There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district, the product sold in each case being pre-wrapped.

21 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the laboratory during the year the results of which are detailed below:-

<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
11	9	1	Nil

In considering the above results, the following note by the Public Health Laboratory Service should be considered.

"Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgement should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six monthly period 50% of a vendors samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

It is unfortunate that sampling of ice-cream cannot be carried out more frequently, in this area, owing to transport difficulties. The specimen must reach the laboratory in Shrewsbury within 2 hours of being taken. As the bus journey from Bridgnorth takes 1¼ hours, it is obvious that samples from retailers in the outlying parts of the district can seldom get to their destination within the time limit, and then only if the Inspectors undertake no other work en route

## FOOD PREMISES.

(a) The type of food premises in the area:

(1) Butchers' shops	- 13
(2) Fried Fish shops	- 3
(3) Bakehouses	- 4
(4) Licensed Premises	- 51
(5) General Provisions Stores	- 36
(6) Catering Premises	- 29
(7) School Canteens	
(without kitchen)	- 20
(8) School Canteens	
(with kitchen)	- 6

(b) Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(1) Manufacturers of preserved foods	- 7
(2) Ice-cream dealers	- 49



SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications of cases of infectious diseases received during the year from general practitioners and hospital medical officers were as follows:-

Measles	-	24
Acute Pneumonia	-	12
Whooping-Cough	-	6
Scarlet Fever	-	5
Meningococcal Infection	-	4
Tuberculosis - (Respiratory)	-	2
" - (Non-Respiratory)	-	<u>1</u>
		<u>54</u>

The district remained remarkably free from the notifiable infectious diseases during 1958, and this total is the lowest recorded for many years. This is mainly due to the low incidence of measles and whooping-cough which have been responsible, either together or singly, for keeping the notification figures high in recent years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory Tuberculosis	Added to Register 1958		Removed from Register, 1958			Total No. on Register at 31.12.58.
	New Cases	Transfers In	Cured	Died	Transfers out	
Male	1	2	3	1	1	32
Female	1	0	0	0	2	22
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Added to Register 1958		Removed from Register, 1958			Total No. on Register at 31.12.58.
	New Cases	Transfers In	Cured	Died	Transfers out	
Male	0	0	0	0	0	8
Female	1	0	0	0	0	5

The above tables give details of the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1958, and the alterations made during the year.

At 31.12.58 there were 54 cases of the respiratory disease, and 13 cases of the non-respiratory forms, still on the Register. The corresponding figures at 31.12.57 were 54 and 12.

Three new cases in this area were notified during 1958 (2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) and there was 1 death due to Respiratory Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Reference has already been made in Section B to the Immunisation and Vaccination procedures available for the protection of infants and children, against various infectious diseases.

Information and advice about vaccination against small-pox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are sent to the parents of all infants born in the County, by the County Health Department.







